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Tom Watson and The People's Party

Begin now, Organize for 1908.

Greenville, Tenn., Nov. 7, 1904.—Editor Independent: This is a day before the election; yet it is not premature to send rallying cry throughout the land to forestall that sort of relaxation that is usually in immediate succession of a battle of the ballots. Let the patriotic roar:

"WATSON! WATSON, FOR 1908!" swell louder and louder, till political iniquity in this liberty-baptized land shall quake in view of near approach of judgment.

No matter what figured results of tomorrow's cast may be; enough is known at this ante-date to assure of the tide that is rising, rising to flood and wash clean the long-time befouled cells of debauched officialism. Unmistakably, populism has, by accurate stroke, sounded the key that gives a rational response, so much is already certain—is consummated achievement and as the most effective instrument that has stirred this widespread and startled awakening, comes, coincident with the huge need of the hour, grand, sterling, fearless and finchless Thomas E. Watson, as if dropped from heaven to meet the present extreme crisis. Tom Watson, marching up from the great yeoman host, with his thunder-words of "Truth indignant," that have startled, shocked, stunned the sin-za-den conspirators that hold revel in the high places of trust in the land.

Let it be the holy purpose of every populist to abate no jot of his zeal, to relax no whit of earnest endeavor, to hold in no less keen tension his solicitude to reclaim for constitutional administration again, the government that "the fathers" founded and transmitted to successors whom they prayed heaven might never prove unworthy or undeserving of it. If before this canvas, anything lacked to exalt Tom Watson to peerage of the highest national fame, this republic accords; then, that lack has been abundantly supplied by his admirable demeanor as a dauntless champion of the right and of the right because it is right, since his nomination at Springfield; and for which, no matter what the consequences, immediate or remote may be, his name will be honored in all history by all true manhood. "So mote it be!"

Let us all thank heaven that we are free from the varmints and incubus of this counterfeit "modern democracy."

ROBERT M. MCKEE.

Watson, Our Leader

Brother Editor: I write to protest against the sentiment expressed in the

last issue (Nov. 5) of the Saturday News, in reference to the selection of a man to lead the forces of reform. There is but one man who is properly equipped for that work, in whom all classes of all parties have implicit confidence, and that is our noble Tom Watson. We must not make any compromise with any party, with any man or set of men, but we must adopt the precinct plan of organization (preferably the Cincinnati plan) which is the only feasible one so far offered that will attract, and furnish a rational basis on which to go before the people.

No dues paying plan can succeed and is needed. We can take Tom Watson as our leader, and his four books at the usual discounts at which books are sold and make a campaign that is self-sustaining and by commencing now in four years gain the reins of government. I, and thousands of others, can take agencies for those four books and start out at once, pay all expenses, make good salaries from the commissions on the books and from our reform press which would also pay good commissions for subscribers and make a fine salary for our Tom (better than any house will pay him) which he deserves. Every book sold and subscription taken would be another power added to the workers ranks and the only means that would bring many men and women to our aid that would not be reached in any other way. We have the man, we have the means, let us use them wisely and the glories of a better civilization will be ushered in sooner than many hope for. Call a conference at St. Louis, Mo., and do it at once, have Watson there and act on these suggestions and all the powers of hell can not prevail against us. Call the conference in December, while we can get cheap rates on the railroads. I do hope Watson will not place himself under any obligations to do editorial work for anyone, but will see that he is the only man that can do what he can. Watson has proven true to the people, with the ability to arouse and lead the forces of reform as no other can. The past had Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln, and we have our Watson. It would be the blunder of the age and a crime of idiotic leadership for us to consider any other man at this time. I wrote N. A. Dunning, who was editing the National Watchman at Washington, D. C. in 1892, urging the nomination of Tom Watson at the Omaha convention, but it was not done, that was a great mistake. Go into any compromising scheme now and to pieces goes the people's party. Call your conference of populists and then and there arrange

to put a referendum to all who will work with us as to the expediency of immediately placing Tom Watson as our nominee and go into a four years' campaign. I do not want Watson worked to death, but I want him, for the good he can do, to go into all parts of this country and kindle the fires, as only he can do, and let the organizers keep at work. Tom Watson and his books furnish the man and the means, have we the sense to use them? Populists, express your sentiments on this matter, let us hear from you. I am very sincerely yours,

S. A. WRIGHT.

Springfield, Mo.

Agitate! Organize! Educate!

Editor Independent: I am on a medical tour in the counties of Blount Marshall and Cullman, Ala. Populist tickets up in all these counties and many others in Alabama, so far as I can learn. Only a few populist papers published in this state. Fusion in Alabama brought confusion, and confusion, brought refusal, and refusal brought disorganization of the populist party in Alabama. Hence, the socialists made some converts to their cause, among the populists as they spurned fusion and determined that they never would vote for either of the old parties. In conversation with the leading men among them they told me that if the people's party would run a straight populist ticket, state and national that they would vote the populist ticket straight through. We need a bold, honest, able and fearless populist paper published in Birmingham, Alabama. To do this we must have populist educational lodges organized in every county and town in Alabama to give the per a strong and heavy support. No man will move forward in political reform in advance of the political light before him. Political ignorance makes political cowards. The motto of the people's party in every state, town and county should be "Agitate! Organize! and Educate the Voters" in the two old parties on reform public measures as presented in the people's party platform adopted in national convention in Springfield, Ill., July 4, 1904. This work should commence in every state as soon as this presidential election is over. Populist papers in all the states should urge this course and keep the populist Springfield platform standing in their columns every week until a populist president is seated in the white house.

We say keep the Springfield platform standing all the time. It is a wonderful educator. The Missouri World has proved this to all thinking and intelligent populists and in this way it saved the populist party from destruction when it was honey-combed with traitors from the two old parties who worked for its destruction. In this work The Independent was allied with the Missouri World. This is a remarkable presidential campaign for stillness on the part of the two old parties. The people seem to have no heart nor hope so far as the two old parties are concerned. As regards Judge Parker and Theodore Roosevelt I see it this way: Parker can eat "possum," but he can't lick the "sap." Roosevelt can lick the "sap," but he can't eat the "possum." Parker can eat turkey, but he can't swallow the "stuffing." Roosevelt can swallow the "stuffing," but he can't eat the turkey. Parker hates hell but he is willing to make a bold fight for the devil. Roosevelt despises the devil, but he is willing to make a square fight for hell. Take the common sense of it. The "sap" is the quint essence of the "possum," the "stuffing" the quint essence of the turkey, and hell the kingdom of the devil. It is a distinction without a difference gotten up in Wall street, New York, and Rothschilds' bank on Lombardy and Threadneedle streets in London, and the New York World, owned by the Rothschilds, his mouth-piece. The two old parties are now one party with two names, a snake with two heads, gold heads and silver tongues and both bite alike. I am handing out sample copies of The Independent to populists who say that they will get up clubs in every county. I will hand out copies of The Independent to populists in Marshall and Cullman counties to get up clubs for it. A revival of populism is coming up again in Alabama. If the populists in Alabama will push The Independent and the Missouri World all over Alabama they will have a great pulling power to aid them in organizing populist educational lodges of educational work in every county in Alabama. This work should be pushed as soon as this presidential election is over, and not wait until the next congressional and presidential election comes on and then commence work that should go on now. Every true populist will sacrifice time, money and labor to organize, build up, and educate the people to a clear understanding of the issues now before the American people.

JAMES COBB BURGER.

Seeds, Ala.

The Election Returns

The people blast democratic perfidy with wrath

The Associated Press has again refused to report the people's party vote. That has been its custom ever since the party was organized. Not a Watson vote has been returned from this, or any other state by that organization. Populists will not be disappointed—they all expected that the Associated Press would adopt just such a course. The Independent several times notified its readers that they must not expect people's party returns until the official count was made in the various states and the returns published in the local papers. That is the only way that The Independent has ever been able to get the populist vote since it began publication fifteen years ago. Even in this state all the returns sent in by the Associated Press have been the vote for Roosevelt, Parker and Berge. Private telegrams from two or three counties, such as Polk and Logan, have given the Watson vote and in all such cases the Watson vote was far ahead of Parker.

The republicans have elected every state officer, and congressman, and have a two-thirds majority in the legislature. In the nation at large Parker has been beaten worse than any candidate that ever ran on the democratic ticket since the war. The infamy of the democratic party was so damning that Parker was not even able to hold the solid south—Missouri and Maryland having voted for Roosevelt. In no election since the formation of this government have the people been so determined to burn up with their wrath an ingrate party as they have the democratic party in this election. Tens of thousands of populists attempted to wreak their vengeance upon it by voting the republican ticket. Bryan democrats in equal numbers did the same thing. That that was the intention of the people is proved by the fact that in at least four states, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Michigan and Missouri, where Roosevelt carried them by immense majorities, the opposition elected the governor.

The electoral college stands as follows:

State	Roosevelt	Parker
Alabama	11	9
Arkansas	9	9
California	10	10
Colorado	5	5
Connecticut	7	7
Delaware	3	3
Florida	5	5
Georgia	13	13
Idaho	3	3
Illinois	27	27
Indiana	15	15
Iowa	13	13
Kansas	10	10
Kentucky	13	13
Maine	6	6
Maryland	8	8
Massachusetts	16	16
Michigan	14	14
Minnesota	11	11
Mississippi	10	10
Missouri	18	18
Montana	3	3
Nebraska	8	8

Nevada	3
New Hampshire	4
New Jersey	12
New York	39
North Carolina	12
North Dakota	4
Ohio	23
Oregon	4
Pennsylvania	34
Rhode Island	4
South Carolina	9
South Dakota	4
Tennessee	12
Texas	18
Utah	3
Vermont	4
Virginia	12
Washington	5
West Virginia	7
Wisconsin	13
Wyoming	3
Totals	343 133

The republicans have made large gains in members of congress and will have complete control of both house and senate, while next winter several